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(54) Wound dressing.

(57) The invention concerns a wound dressing comprising a fibrous material impregnated with a composition said composition comprising :
(a) from about 0.05% to 10% by weight of a natural gelling agent ;
(b) from about 1.0% to 10% by weight of a hydrocolloid ;
(c) from about 5.0% to 30.0% by weight of an alkylene glycol and
(d) at least 50% by weight of water.

The dressing has the advantages of being convenient, non-adherent, and suitable for use on exuding wounds.

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This invention relates to a wound dressing. More particularly, this invention relates to a wound dressing comprising a fibrous material coated with an impregnating composition, useful for treating wounds.

The invention also relates to a method of treating a wound comprising applying the dressing to a wound.

It is well known that the cleansing and debriding of wounds and the removal of wound exudate is important to the process of healing wounds. Commonly used wound dressings comprise gauze, foams, sponges, cotton wads or other fibrous materials. Gauze and other fibrous materials absorb fluids by capillary action with the disadvantage that when new tissue is formed as part of the healing process, it engulfs the fibres and is torn when the material is removed causing wound injury. Many fibrous products also have the disadvantage that they do not conform readily to the shape of the wound particularly if the wound includes a cavity.

Saline coated gauzes are known in the art but have the disadvantage that the coatings are mobile and can be lost from the gauze and wound. In addition many of the coated gauzes cannot be used on exuding wounds as the coatings have limited absorbancy.

It is also known from EP 0 567 311 A2 (Queen/ER Squibb and Sons) to use an absorbent gel to remove exudate from wounds. The gel is packaged in a tube and is applied to the wound from the tube. For some wounds this method of application has the disadvantages of needing a secondary dressing and being time consuming and messy.

We have now found that a dressing comprising a fibrous material coated with a composition applied as a particular gel, mitigates many of the above disadvantages.

Accordingly the invention comprises a wound dressing comprising a fibrous material impregnated with a composition characterised in that the composition comprises:

- (a) from about 0.05% to 10% by weight of a natural gelling agent;
- (b) from about 1.0% to 10% by weight of a hydrocolloid;
- (c) from about 5.0% to 30.0% by weight of a glycol and
- (d) at least 50% by weight of water.

The most preferred composition contains 0.1% pectin, 3.4% sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, 15% propylene glycol and 81.5% water.

The natural gelling agent is preferably selected from pectin, alginic acid and salts thereof, carageenan, tragacanth, acacia, locust bean gum, guar gum, starch, agar and gelatin. More preferably the pectin is pectin with a high ester content derived from citrus peel consisting chiefly of the partial methyl esters of polygalacturonic acid (approximately 65% of the carboxyl groups are esterified). Representatives of the pectin useful in the gel composition is that marketed under the name GENU pectin type VIS-L by Copenhagen Pectin. The natural gelling agent is preferably present in an amount from 0.05% to 1.0% by weight.

The hydrocolloid is preferably selected from sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxyvinyl polymer and salts thereof, poloxamer for example Pluronic F127, xanthan gum, povidone, modified starches, and guar derivatives. The carboxymethyl cellulose is preferably sodium carboxymethyl cellulose present in an amount from about 2.0% to 4.5% by weight. The preferred sodium carboxymethyl cellulose is a high viscosity sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (typically in the range 2000 - 4500 cps as measured by Brookfield LV Viscometry of a 1% solution, oven dry basis, 25°C and spindle 4/30 rpm).

The glycol can be an aryl or alkylene glycol, preferably selected from the group of glycerol, polyethylene glycol, panthanol, and sorbitol. If the glycol is an alkylene glycol it is preferably propylene glycol present at from about 10.0% to 20.0% by weight.

The water used in the present invention is preferably purified and pyrogen free water and is present in an amount sufficient to bring the total composition up to 100% by weight.

Various optional ingredients can also be included in the final composition such as preservatives eg, methylhydroxybenzoate and propylhydroxybenzoate. In addition, the wound gel composition can, if desired, contain small amounts (effective amounts) i.e. less than 5%, of pharmacologically active ingredients. For example, an antibiotic or antimicrobial agent such as metronidazole, silver sulphadiazine, neomycin or penicillin, and antiseptic agent such as povidone iodine, and anti-inflammatory agent such as hydrocortisone or triamcinolone acetonide, or a skin protective agent such as zinc oxide can be included.

The composition used to make the dressing of this invention is prepared by mixing the natural gelling agent in water with heating (for example at a temperature from about 50°C to 60°C) to form a solution. Alkylene glycol is added while mixing and hydrocolloid gradually added while mixing to form a gel.

We have found that the wound dressing of the invention performs particularly well if the gel has a viscosity of from 50 to 800 Pas as determined by Viscolog model MRV8 viscometer and a helical drive unit and PD spindle rotating at 2.5 rpm. If this is achieved flow of the gel off the gauze either in the packaging or at the wound site is reduced while conformity of the dressing to the surface of the wound is optimised. Since the gel has some wet tack the gauze stays in place more readily.

For certain types of wound treatment it is advantageous to have a dressing comprising many layers of substrate. For such a dressing the impregnating composition needs to be more mobile than a gel to fully impregnate the substrate. This can be achieved with the present invention by sterilising a gel impregnated fibrous substrate by irradiation which then destroys the gel-structure and renders the composition more mobile. The advantage of using a gel to impregnate the substrate is that the gel gives processing advantages in that it can be extruded onto the substrate and less coating is lost from the substrate during packaging. The resultant, irradiated dressing comprises a composition which includes hydrocolloids which are able to absorb wound exudate. This is an advantage over known saline impregnated dressings which rely on the gauze to absorb exudate with the unwanted result of wound re-injury.

The fibrous material of the invention may be selected from viscose, cotton and polyester in the form of a knitted, woven or non woven sheet or ribbon, but is preferably a knitted gauze. Most preferably the gauze is a knitted viscose being a warp knitted fabric using 220 Dtex, 40 filament Bright viscose yarn. For certain applications the substrate is preferably a multiplied plain woven cotton gauze.

The wound dressing of this invention is prepared by coating the fibrous material with the impregnating composition preferably by extruding the composition in the form of a gel through a nozzle onto both sides of the gauze. Preferably the coating density is from 750g to 2kg of gel per square metre of gauze.

The wound dressing may then be packaged in a moist state in a foil envelope and sterilized. Sterilization can be achieved either by autoclaving or by irradiating the envelope.

The invention will now be illustrated by the following non-limiting examples.

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Example 1

A wound dressing was prepared by coating a 10cm square of gauze made from knitted viscose with the gel composition below to a density of 1kgm⁻².

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Gel composition	% by weight
Pectin	0.1%
Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose	3.4%
Propylene glycol	15.0%
Purified water	81.5%

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Pectin (0.2g) was added to purified water (163.0g) in a beaker and heated to 50 - 60°C with constant stirring until the pectin dissolved. Propylene glycol (30.0g) was added and sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (6.8g) was gradually added with constant mixing. A hydrocolloid gel (200g) was produced.

The wound dressing was packaged in a foil envelope and sterilized by autoclaving at 121°C.

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The handling characteristics of the wound dressing were evaluated in a full thickness wound model. The wound dressing of the invention was compared to Tricotex (a non-adherent dressing ex Smith and Nephew) alone by applying the dressings under a secondary dressing of either Tricotex or Op-Site (ex Smith and Nephew) an occlusive dressing to a total of 18 wounds. Dressings were changed on days 3, 4, 7 and 9.

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Generally when applying the dressings into the wound cavity, the wound dressing of the invention demonstrated superior handling characteristics in that it could easily be moulded to the shape of the wound. The Tricotex gauze dressing on its own was difficult to apply to the wounds and did not conform at all to the shape of the wound. A subjective evaluation of the ease of removal of the dressings from the wounds demonstrated that generally the wounds treated with Tricotex gauze under Tricotex or Op-Site showed poor removal. This was because the gauze appeared to adhere to the wound surface, and in some cases caused re-injury of the tissue on removal. The wound dressing of the invention was easily removed from the wound without causing re-injury of the wound and without the use of a saline wash, whether wound fluid was present or not.

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Example 2

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The rates of contraction of the wounds of Example 1 were measured as a percentage of wound area on day 0. All the wounds with dressings under Tricotex followed a normal contraction curve. However the wounds with dressings according to the invention showed superior performance under Op-Site, for example at day 11 Tricotex under Op-Site demonstrated 85% of the original wound area while the wound dressing of the invention under Op-Site demonstrated 45% of the original wound area.

Example 3

A wound dressing was prepared by coating a 10cm square of gauze made from plain woven cotton multiplied to 8 to 12 ply, with the gel composition below to a density of 2kgm⁻².

Gel composition	% by weight
Pectin	0.1%
Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose	3.4%
Propylene glycol	15.0%
Purified water	81.5%

Pectin (0.2g) was added to purified water (163.0g) in a beaker and heated to 50 - 60°C with constant stirring until the pectin dissolved. Propylene glycol (30.0g) was added and sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (6.8g) was gradually added with constant mixing. A hydrocolloid gel (200g) was produced.

The wound dressing was packaged in a foil envelope and sterilized by exposure to gamma irradiation at 25KGy. The irradiation destroyed the gel structure to allow penetration of the coating into the gauze.

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Claims

1. A wound dressing comprising a fibrous material impregnated with a composition characterised in that said composition comprises:
 - (a) from about 0.05% to 10% by weight of a natural gelling agent;
 - (b) from about 1.0% to 10% by weight of a hydrocolloid;
 - (c) from about 5.0% to 30.0% by weight of an alkylene glycol and
 - (d) at least 50% by weight of water.
2. A wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the composition is in the form of a gel.
3. A wound dressing as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 characterised in that the natural gelling agent is pectin.
- 35 4. A wound dressing as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the hydrocolloid is sodium carboxymethyl cellulose.
5. A wound dressing as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the alkylene glycol is propylene glycol.
- 40 6. A method of treating a wound comprising applying the dressing of claim 1 to the wound.
7. Use of a fibrous material impregnated with a composition comprising:
 - (a) from about 0.05% to 10% by weight of a natural gelling agent;
 - (b) from about 1.0% to 10% by weight of a hydrocolloid;
 - (c) from about 5.0% to 30.0% by weight of an alkylene glycol and
 - (d) at least 50% by weight of water in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of wounds and in particular chronic wounds.
- 50 8. Use as claimed in claim 7 characterised in that the composition is in the form of a gel.
9. A wound dressing product comprising a sealed foil envelope containing a wound dressing comprising a fibrous material impregnated with a composition said composition comprising:
 - (a) from about 0.05% to 10% by weight of a natural gelling agent;
 - (b) from about 1.0% to 10% by weight of a hydrocolloid;
 - (c) from about 5.0% to 30.0% by weight of an alkylene glycol and
 - (d) at least 50% by weight of water.

10. A product as claimed in claim 9 characterised in that the composition is in the form of a gel.
11. A method for making a wound dressing comprising the steps of:
5 (i) impregnating a fibrous material with a gel said gel comprising:
 (a) from about 0.05% to 10% by weight of a natural gelling agent;
 (b) from about 1.0% to 10% by weight of a hydrocolloid;
 (c) from about 5.0% to 30.0% by weight of an alkylene glycol and
 (d) at least 50% by weight of water;
10 (ii) sealing the impregnated fibrous material in an envelope and
 (iii) sterilizing said envelope and contents.
12. Method as claimed in claim 11 characterised in that the sterilization is carried out by autoclaving.
13. Method as claimed in claim 11 characterised in that the sterilization is carried out by gamma irradiation.

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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 95 20 0138
shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent
proceedings, as the European search report

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.)
Y	WO-A-90 14110 (VILAIN JEAN) 29 November 1990 * page 5; claims *	1-13	A61L15/28 A61L15/60
D, Y	EP-A-0 567 311 (SQUIBB BRISTOL MYERS CO) 27 October 1993 * the whole document *	1-13	
A	EP-A-0 532 275 (JOHNSON & JOHNSON MEDICAL) 17 March 1993 * page 3, line 6 - line 21 * * page 4 *	1-13	
A	US-A-3 249 109 (HARRY MAETH) 3 May 1966 * claims *	1-13	
A	US-A-4 292 972 (PAWELCHAK JOHN M ET AL) 6 October 1981 * claims *	1-13	
A	EP-A-0 208 395 (EURO CELTIQUE SA) 14 January 1987 * claims *	1	
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.)			
A61L			
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the provisions of the European Patent Convention to such an extent that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art on the basis of some of the claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p>			
<p>see sheet C</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	30 May 1995	ESPINOSA, M	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : oral-written disclosure P : intermediate document			



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Remark: Although claim 6
is directed to a method of
treatment of (diagnostic method
practised on) the human/animal body
(Art. 52(4) EPC) the search has been
carried out and based on the
alleged effects of the compound/
composition